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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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THOMAS EAKINS PAINTING, "THE BIGLEN BROTHERS RACING"  
GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
BY MR. AND MRS. CORNELIUS VANDERBILT WHITNEY

WASHINGTON, November 16: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that an important oil painting by the American artist Thomas Eakins (1844-1916) entitled, The Biglen Brothers Racing has been given to the Gallery by Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney of New York.

"The National Gallery is fortunate in receiving this generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Whitney," Mr. Finley said. "Until now, Eakins has been represented in the Gallery's collection only by portraits. We are particularly glad, therefore, to have this fine example of his skill in depicting outdoor scenes, which have added so much to his fame as an artist."



John Walker, Chief Curator of the National Gallery, in discussing the painting said it was painted probably about 1873, shortly after the artist's return from his period of study in Europe. "Rowing was an extremely popular American sport at the time, and Eakins himself rowed. This was a favorite subject for his early pictures. This painting of oarsmen racing, every muscle tense, is an excellent illustration of the manner in which this great American realist, like certain Italian Renaissance artists, studied anatomy, worked out perspective mathematically, and investigated movement with logical thoroughness," Mr. Walker stated.

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